The Columbus Dispatch

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Browns fire GM, keep coach / D1 | **OSU's Price nation's top center / D1** | **'Disaster Artist' finds its humor in truth / E1**

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CREW'S FUTURE

AG would sue to block move

Renderings depict Austin stadium

By Megan Henry and Andrew Erickson
The Columbus Dispatch

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine is prepared to take "necessary legal action" to keep Columbus Crew SC from leaving town.

He agrees that a 1996 state law passed in response to Art Modell's decision to move the Cleveland Browns to Baltimore could be used to keep the Crew in Columbus.

"The Ohio attorney general's office has reviewed the law passed after the Browns' move. We believe the evidence will show that this law would apply to the Columbus Crew and Mapfre Stadium," DeWine said in a statement.

The basis for the law says no owner of a professional sports team in Ohio that uses tax-supported facilities or gets public financial assistance can move out of town unless the owner gives six months advance notice and gives the city or

SEE CREW, A8

Fire and fury

A resident douses a roof early Thursday as the Thomas Fire approaches the small seaside town of La Conchita, Calif., northwest of Ventura. Wildfires continue to rage in Southern California, with the area between Ventura and Santa Barbara under seige from flames that leapt from steep coastal hillsides across Route 101, and new blazes north of San Diego. Also, Thursday, Nationwide Insurance reported more than $1 billion in claims from fires in Northern California in October. Stories on Pages A6 and C1. [WALLY SKALIJ/LOS ANGELES TIMES]

SENATE PRESSURE

O'Neill: 'I will not be rushed' off bench

By Jim Siegel and Randy Ludlow
The Columbus Dispatch

Even as the Ohio Senate readied a plan to remove him from the Ohio Supreme Court, Justice William M. O'Neill said he will reveal Friday when he is stepping down to run for governor.

O'Neill

"I will not be rushed out the door by anyone and that includes the Ohio Senate," the Democratic justice told The Dispatch.

SEE O'NEILL, A10

STATE ETHICS PROBE

Info-tech chief accused; others under scrutiny

By Randy Ludlow
The Columbus Dispatch

The Ohio inspector general's pursuit of multiple investigations into the state information-technology office has resulted in accusations of possible ethics violations by the state's top IT official.

More is to come as Thursday's report represents just the first in a series probing

SEE ETHICS, A10

Franken says he'll quit Senate

Sen. Al Franken, hounded by allegations of sexual harassment, announced Thursday that he will resign his seat in the "coming weeks." New accusations had eroded his support from his fellow Democrats. / A3

US decision spurs Palestinian unrest

Thousands of Palestinians clashed with Israeli forces Thursday over a U.S. decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The violence could worsen Friday after prayers at large mosque in Jerusalem. / A7

US Olympic team plans to compete

The U.S. Olympic Committee said Thursday it has no plans to pull the American team out of the upcoming Winter Games in South Korea after a White House official said U.S. participation was an "open question." / A11

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